VOL. VI, NO. 3 MARCH, 1967

NORTH AMERICAN JOURNAL OF NUMISMATICS

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NORTH AMERICAN JOURNAL OF NUMISMATICS

A PUBLICATION OF THE ANCIENT COIN CLUB OF AMERICA

VOL. VI, NO. 3 MARCH, 1967

In This Issue

From the Editor's Desk 67

Elsewhere in the Numismatic World 70

Close-Up Photography Applied to Ancient Coins 71
By C. W. BEHNEN

Letter from Melas to Serapion and Silvanus 75

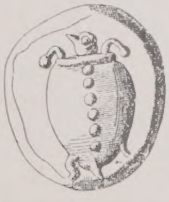
A Comparison of the Egyptian and Gregorian Calendars 77
By JOHN E. HARTMANN

A Second Hoard of Venetian Silver Coins, II 79
By BRUCE B. BRAUN & RAYMOND HUCKLES

A Hoard of Venetian Gold Coins. III 85
By BRUCE B. BRAUN & RAYMOND HUCKLES

Coins and Medals of the State of the Ionian Islands, II 91
By P. S. LAMBROS

The Numismatic Exchange 96



COVER COIN: SILVER STATER OF LOKRIS. AJAX, SON OF OILEUS, WEARS CRESTED CORINTHIAN HELMET. (26 MM).

Photo courtesy of Herb Brabrandt

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From the Editor's Desk

Calvin Woods recently received a report from Karl Jung who is acting as coordinator for the newly formed Denver Chapter of the ACCA. Mr. Jung reports that his group is having some difficulty with the names and relationships of Roman coin denominations and that his group intends to attempt a study of this subject.

Your editor can only wish our Denver Chapter much luck and extend his welcome to the fraternity of those who have stumbled on this problem in the past.

Your editor has been chided for his restraint in using the term "antoninianus"; in fact, one member facetiously remarked that the editor does not believe in that coin. It is obvious when one has thousands of such coins covering a period of nearly one hundred years that their existence can not be denied. What is not so obvious, and what the editor is attempting to elucidate, is that the problem of the "antoninianus" is not so simple that we can dismiss one hundred years of coinage with a simple generic term which obscures the issue.

Without writing a thesis on the subject, a few salient facts can be pointed out. The only mention in the literary sources of an "Argentos Antoninianos" is in the Vitae of Firmus, Saturninus, Proculus and Bonosus. There is no possible way in which we can know what coin is meant, though the presumption has been that since Caracalla minted a new silver coin, perhaps this coin is the one referred to in the above passage. (And lest anyone write asking how I missed the passages in the Vitae of Aurelian or Probus let me respond that these passages refer to "Aureos Antoninianos" and not Argenteos).

This coin was intermittent in its appearance until it apparently replaced the denarius over 35 years later. One is justified in asking if the "Antoninianus" of Caracalla is the same coin which replaced the denarius under Gordian III and his successors. One is further justified in asking if coins with some silver content are the same as coins of the same style and fabric which are wholly of bronze. One can also question whether the XX.I pieces which appear under Aurelian and his successors are the same coin which had gone before, even

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though style and fabric appears to be the same. Moreover, despite the learned pundits who have labored over the value of this coin, or coins, there is yet no agreement on this subject. The whole question of the "antoninianus" is just that, a question.

Lest specialists in Greek coinage feel left out of it, perhaps it would be worthwhile to remark on the complicated metrological messes surrounding the autonomous coinages of the many hundred Greek cities which minted. The drachma to be sure, is a constant, but discovering whether a given silver coin is a drachma, its part or its multiple is by no means easy. Moreover, it has not yet been demonstrated firmly that the many weight standards about which much has been written are indeed valid or mere approximations. It does seem unusual that a Greek city should mint nothing but tetra-obols.

What all this is leading up to is that the efforts to discover the names of coins, that is, what they were called by those who used them, and the relationships of various denominations have been expended in large part in vain. We are confused by the use of terms, which may not be identical, for both coins and money of account. We are misled by ancient authors whose references to money or coins are few and far between and are seldom explicit in any sense.

These problems are not the problems only of a group of enthusiastic collectors in Denver. It is perhaps relevant to quote here what the esteemed Michael Grant said on this subject in the introduction to his *Roman Anniversary Issues*, "Coinage of almost inconceivable bulk, and with corresponding variety of type, lasted for century after century; yet the surviving literary comment on it is ludicrously sparse, fragmentary and obscure. . ."

Not to let any one feel serene I hereby challenge anyone who feels that he has the coinage system of the early Roman Principate down pat to quote chapter and verse from the original sources justifying that system. When he does so, let me assure him that there are other chapters and verse with which he may not be familiar which will cast some doubt upon his assurance.

Despite the magnitude of the problems surrounding the names and relationships of various coins, be they Greek or Roman, there is no reason why a project aimed at investigating this subject cannot be fruitful, and thereby lies a challenge to those who claim a serious interest in numismatics and ancient history. To those let this problem be one which can be illuminated by your research. Professor Grant also said,

in regard to the quotation just made, that it was high time the references to coins in the literary sources be studied and tabulated. We echo his sentiments.

JOHN E. HARTMANN, EDITOR

Elsewhere in the Numismatic World

Readers will be interested in a new venture undertaken by Paul Rynearson of California. He is attempting to list coins of quality rather than quantity and to furnish historical information along with the catalog descriptions. Since many have written asking that dealers be more specific in writing coin descriptions, Mr. Rynearson's catalog may well become such a remedy.

Since Mr. Rynearson has devoted a great deal of time to both the composition and format of his catalog as well as to the full illustration of all coins, he asks that interested people subscribe for the six yearly issues he plans to make available. He will send a sample catalog free upon request and is anxious that people who are interested write him requesting this offer. His address is Box 8155, Fountain Valley, California 92708.

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Close-Up Photography Applied To Ancient Coins

by
C. W. Behnen

Since no two ancient coins are exactly alike, a photograph of one is like a fingerprint. A good photograph will show striking cracks, wear, corrosion, off-center strike and other good or bad features. Photographs of your collection of ancient coins provide you with convenient records for insurance purposes or for identifying them if stolen, and for comparison when purchasing a new specimen for your collection. You can upgrade a particular specimen without removing it from the vault for comparison.

There are many different methods of photographing coins; I shall explain the method I have used successfully. Here is a list of essential equipment for this method of photographing ancient coins.

a) A 35mm single-lens reflex camera.
b) A long-focus lens (85-135mm or longer).
c) Extension rings totaling at least 50mm length.
d) A yellow filter for B&W film (Wratten K-2).
e) A firm support; a tripod or photo-copy stand.
f) A cable release for the shutter.
g) An exposure meter.
h) Two shaded lamps.
i) High-contrast film (Kodak Panatomic-X or Adox KB-14).

I use a Practica FX-2 35mm camera, 50mm of extension rings, and a 105mm lens (in close-up photography, the longer the focal length of the lens, the greater the depth-of field). The extension rings introduce an exposure problem I'll show how to solve later. A photocopy stand is easiest to use, but any tripod can be used. A crank-type, center-post tripod is the best type because it facilitates easy up-and-down adjustments. The best film to use is Kodak Pan-X because of its high-contrast and fine grain qualities. Almost any slow-speed film (ASA 10-40) is adequate.

Since most ancient bronzes are dark, dull, and have few highlights, good contrast is a must for good photographs. Even overexposing the film a little will help increase the contrast. When photographing Greek Imperial bronzes, Roman sestertii, or any other ancient or medieval coins having a dull surface

ROMAN BRONZES

1. **ANONYMOUS,** c 83 B.C. As. Head of Janus. Rv. Soldier on prow. S.734. F-VF ..... $ 35.00
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6. **TITUS.** Sestertius. ANNONO AUGUSTI. F-VF, no patina. ..... $ 30.00
7. **VESPASIAN.** Sestertius, str. 71 A.D. Mars. C.440. VF, no patina. ..... $ 30.00
8. **NERVA.** Sestertius, 97 A.D. Modius. C. 127. VF, fine port. $125.00
9. **HADRIAN.** Dupondius. Virtus. F-VF, no patina. .... $ 7.50
10. **ANTONINUS PIUS.** Dupondius. Thunderbolt. VF, no patina. ..... $ 20.00
11. **M. AURELIUS.** Sestertius. Providence. C. 805. VF, no patina ..... $ 27.50
12. **COMMODUS.** Sestertius. Club of Hercules. C. 192. VF, very rare ..... $ 50.00
13. _____ Sestertius. Victory. F-VF, no patina. ..... $ 15.00
14. **DIDIUS JULIANUS.** Sestertius. Fortuna. F ..... $ 50.00
15. **SEPTIMIUS SEVERUS.** Sestertius, A.D. 195. Victory. VF/F, crack in flan, no patina. ..... $ 25.00
16. **CLODIUS ALBINUS.** Sestertius, Pax. VF-EF. ..... $ 75.00
17. **JULIA MAESA.** Sestertius. Fedunditas. F-VF, rare. ..... $ 15.00
18. **JULIA MAMAEA.** Sestertius. Felicitas. Pitting on face, F-VF, no patina. ..... $ 6.00
19. **MAXIMINUS I.** Sestertius. VICTORIA GERMANICA C. 109. VF. ..... $ 10.00
20. **MAXIMUS.** Sestertius. Pietas AUG. VF-EF, rare. .. $ 15.00

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due to patina, wear, or soil encrustation. I suggest that a yellow filter such as a Wratten K-2 filter be used to further increase the contrast. Filters decrease the amount of light reaching the film: this must be compensated for when calculating the exposure. Figure this compensation factor *after* everything else is figured. If a filter has an exposure factor of 8, decrease the shutter speed to 1/8th of the original setting or open the aperature by 3 f/stops. If the factor is 4, divide the original shutter speed by 4, or open the aperature 2 f/stops.

The shutter speed is likely to be less than 1/10th sec.; therefore, you should use a cable release to avoid jarring the camera during the exposure.

The lighting arrangement I use is very simple. I set up two goose-neck desk lamps: one on each side almost above the coins at a height of about 12 inches. I use a 100 watt bulb in one lamp and a 60 watt bulb in the other one. This is done purposely to introduce a bit of shadow and highlights.

Make sure the film plane and the surface on which you place the coins are parallel. If they are not parallel, distortion and out-of-focus photos will result.

Because ancient coins are relatively small objects, you must photograph them closer than the regular minimum focusing distance of the camera. Use extension rings. A set of them totaling 50-60mm will cost $5 or $6. Using them causes an exposure problem. There is a simple formula for calculating the *effective* f/stop (aperture).

$$\text{eff. f/stop} = \frac{(\text{f/stop indicated on lens}) \times (\text{lens-to-film distance})}{(\text{focal length of lens})}$$

An actual example will help explain this formula.

$$x = \frac{(\text{f/11}) \times (105\text{mm lens} + 64\text{mm of rings})}{(105\text{mm lens})}$$

$$x = \frac{11 \times 169}{105} = \text{f/17.7}$$

This effective f/stop is the one that should be used when taking a meter reading for the exposure. Remember to compensate for the filter (if used) *after* you have taken this reading. If the meter reading was f/17 at 1/40 sec., the filter factor of 8 would increase the exposure time to 1/5 sec.

After you have your set-up, shoot a test roll of film using various coins such as a billon tetradachm, a silver denarius, a sestertius, and a Greek bronze. Include along with the coins

a card showing what each particular exposure is, i.e., f/stop, shutter speed, filter.

Finally, here are a few hints about systemizing the photographs of your collection:

a) Photograph each denomination as a group, i.e., denarii, sestertii, Greek bronzes, antoninianii, etc.
b) Photograph 3 to 5 coins at a time.
c) Photograph the obverse of the coins, turn over the coins, leaving them in the same position, and photograph the reverse.
d) Secure the two corresponding photos with gelatin dry-mount tissue; it can be obtained in any photo store.
e) Number each coin on the photo corresponding to the catalog of your collection, if you have cataloged them.

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Letter From Melas To Serapion and Silvanus

. . . from a papyrus contained in Series II.
Greek Papyri. #77 by B. P. Grenfal and A. S. Hunt.
Translation from *LCL*, SELECT PAPYRI I, p. 373.

Melas . . . to Serapion and Silvanus . . . greeting. I have sent you by the grave-digger the body of your brother Phibion and have paid him the fee for transporting the body, being 340 drachmae of the old coinage. And I am much surprised that you departed for no good reason without taking the body of your brother, but collected all that he possessed and so departed. And from this I see that you did not come up for the sake of the dead, but for the sake of his effects. Now take care to have ready the sum spent. The expenses are: cost of preservatives 60 old drachmae, cost of wine on the first day, 2 choes, 32 old drachmae; for the expenditure on loaves and relishes, 16 dr; to the grave-digger for the desert journey besides the above mentioned fee, 1 chous of wine 20 drachmae; 2 choes of oil, 12 dr.; 1 artaba of barley, 20 dr; cost of linen, 20 dr; and fee as aforesaid of 340 dr; total on reckoning the whole expenditure five hundred and twenty drachmae of the old coinage, total 520 dr. You will therefore make every effort to serve the person who will bring the body by providing loaves and wine and oil and whatever you can in order that he may testify to me. Do nothing . . . I pray for your health. (Addressed) To Serapion and Silvanus, brothers of Phibion, from Melas, decadarch.

Editor's note: Reference here made to "old drachmae" probably refers to the coinage which preceded the reforms of Diocletian about which little is known except that the unique though now thoroughly debased Egyptian system was discontinued and the Alexandria mint converted into one of many imperial branch mints. The date of this document must therefore be post 305 AD. The reference to "old drachmae" indicates that either the old coins continued to circulate (and incidently have value) or at least were used as a unit of account for some time after the coinage reforms of the early 4th century. Interested students will also want to compare the costs of various items in this document as compared with costs shown in earlier papyri which will from time to time be published here.

* Note . . . indicates missing portions of text

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A Comparison of the Egyptian and Gregorian Calendars

by
John E. Hartmann

Inasmuch as more references to papyri will occur in this magazine it is thought advisable to relate the calendar in use in Egypt throughout the millenium following the Macedonian conquest to the calendar in use today.

(Those readers who wish to point out that the Gregorian calendar is far removed in time from the period of the papyri are of course quite correct. The Gregorian calendar is really the modified Julian calendar which went into effect in 45 BC and which was 11 days in error in 1722. Gregorian dates and Julian dates are identical until the later second century AD at which time the error is one day).

EGYPTIAN DATE	JULIAN DATE
Thoth 1	August 29
Phaophi 1	September 28
Hathur 1	October 28
Choiak 1	November 27
Tubi 1	December 27
Mecheir 1	January 26
Phaemenoth 1	February 25
Pharmouthi 1	March 26
Pachon 1	April 26
Pauni 1	May 26
Epeiph 1	June 25
Mesore 1	July 25
Intercalary 1	August 24

In leap years Thoth 1 falls on August 30 and the Julian dates for Phaophi. Hathur. Choiak. Tubi and Mecheir have to be advanced one day.

The Egyptian year consisted, at least before the Ptolemies, of 12 months of 30 days each and five intercalary days. Since this year falls short of the natural year by a quarter of a day the first day of the Egyptian New Year (Thoth 1) would gradually move in relation to the Julian dates. At the beginning of the Ptolemaic period Thoth 1 fell on about November 13 (Julian).

The Ptolemies imposed the Macedonian calendar upon Egypt, but this was soon assimilated to the old Egyptian year

and after the second century BC most papyri are dated by the Egyptian months. Interrelation of the Egyptian and the Macedonian calendars is obscure, hence dates appearing on early papyri are not completely certain.

Augustus moved Thoth 1 back to August 29 (Julian) and for the remainder of the period Egyptian dates can be converted to Julian dates by the following table. Julian dates can be converted to Gregorian (present calendar dates) by adding one day each 175 years in the Christian era.

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A Second Hoard of Venetian Silver Coins
PART II

by
Bruce B. Braun and Raymond Huckles

In February of 1964, an additional lot of 22 Venetian silver coins was purchased from the same source from which the first hoard was obtained. (See *Turtle*, Nov., 1966).

Although the seller claimed to know nothing of the provenance, general appearances and similarities lead the authors to believe this second parcel of coins to have been part of the original hoard.

CATALOG OF COINS

PIETRO GRADENIGO
1289 - 1310 AD.

65. **Obv:** PE. GRADONICO • S. M. VENETI.
Pl. V Full length facing figures of Doge and St. Mark holding Staff with Pennant between them.
In Field: D
V
X
Rev: Enthroned facing figure of Christ.
In Field IC • XC
Near right leg: o

GIOVANNI SORANZO
1311 - 1327 AD.

66. **Obv:** IO. SVPANTIO • S. M. VENETI.
Pl. V Similar to No. 65
Rev: Similar to No. 65
Near left elbow:

FRANCESCO DANDOLO
1328 - 1339 AD.

67. **Obv:** FRA. DANDVLO • S. M. VENETI.
Pl. V Similar to No. 65
Rev: Similar to No. 65
68. **Obv:** Similar to No. 67
Pl. V Similar to No. 67
Rev: In robe: o
69. Similar to No. 68

BARTOLOMEO GRADENIGO
1339 - 1342 AD.

70. **Obv:** BA. GRADONICO • S. M. VENETI.
Pl. V Similar to No. 65
Rev: Similar to No. 65
71-72. Similar to No. 70

ANDREA DANDOLO
1344 - 1354 AD.

73. **Obv:** ANDR. DANDVLO • S. M. VENETI.
Pl. V Similar to No. 65
Rev: Similar to No. 65

ANDREA CONTARINI
1367 - 1382 AD.

74. **Obv:** ANDR. QTARENO • S. M. VENETI.
Pl. V Full length figures of Doge facing to right, St. Mark facing front, holding Staff with Pennant between them.
In Field: D
V
X
Rev: Enthroned facing figure of Christ.
In Field: * • C
Note: "IC • XC" missing!
75. **Obv:** Similar to No. 74
Pl. V
Rev: Similar to No. 74
In Field: IC • XC
* • F

ANTONIO VENIER
1382 - 1400 AD.

76. **Obv:** ANTO. VENERIO • S. M. VENETI.
Pl. VI Full length figures of Doge facing to right, St. Mark facing front, holding Staff with Pennant between them.
In Field: D
V
X
* • *
Rev: ✝.TIBI.LAVS. 3. GLORIA
Enthroned facing figure of Christ.
77-80. Similar to No. 76

MICHELE STENO
1400 - 1413 AD.

81. **Obv:** MICHAEL STENO. • S. M. VENETI.
Pl. VI Similar to No. 76
Rev: Similar to No. 76

65

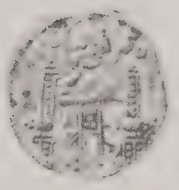
66

67

68

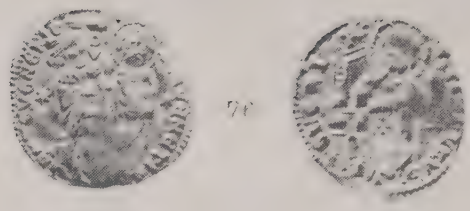
73

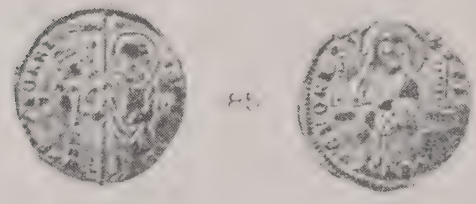
74



75

70





TOMASSO MOCENIGO
1414 - 1423 AD.

82. **Obv:** TOM. MOCENICO • S. M. VENETI.
Pl. VI Similar to No. 76
Rev: Similar to No. 76
83. Similar to No. 82

TABLE OF COINS IN HOARD

DOGE	REIGN	NO. OF COINS
Pietro Gradenigo	1289-1310	1
Giovanni Soranzo	1311-1327	1
Francesco Dandolo	1328-1339	3
Bartolomeo Gradenigo	1339-1342	3
Andrea Dandolo	1344-1354	1
Andrea Contarini	1367-1382	2
Antonio Venier	1382-1400	5
Michele Steno	1400-1413	1
Tomasso Mocenigo	1414-1423	2
Francesco Foscari	1423-1457	3
10 Different Doges	Span of 169 Years	22 Coins

FRANCESCO FOSCARI
1423 - 1457 AD.

84. **Obv:** FRA. FOSCARI • S. M. VENETI.
Pl. IV Similar to No. 76
&
Pl. VI In Field: • B
Rev: Similar to No. 76

85. **Obv:** Similar to No. 76
Pl. VI In Field: F • P
Rev: Similar to No. 76

84

86. **Obv:** Similar to No. 76
In Field: A • ?
Rev: Similar to No. 76

A Hoard of Venetian Gold Coins

PART III

by

Bruce B. Braun and Raymond Huckles

A small lot of 15 Venetian gold coins was purchased by the authors in the Spring of 1964.

Nothing is known of the provenance of the hoard although the seller believed they were unearthed in Syria.

The coins were all Venetian gold ducats in excellent condition with virtually no circulation wear.

All 15 pieces were of the standard design of St. Mark and Doge obverse and standing Christ reverse.

Coin number 93 (plate VIII) was as struck, having a weight of 3.47 grams and a diameter of 20.5 millimeters.

TABLE OF COINS IN HOARD

DOGE	REIGN	NO. OF COINS
Leonardo Loredan	1501 - 1521	1
Francesco Dona	1545 - 1553	5
Francesco Venier	1554 - 1556	2
Gerolamo Priuli	1559 - 1567	5
Alvise I Mocenigo	1570 - 1577	2
5 Different Doges	Span of 77 Years	15 coins

LEONARDO LOREDAN
1501 - 1521 AD.

87. **Obv:** LEO. LAVRED • S. M.VENETI.
Pl. VII & Pl. VIII Full length figures of St. Mark facing to right, Doge facing left, holding Staff with Pennant between them.
In Field: D
V
X
Rev: SIT. T. XPE. DAT. Q. TV. REGIS. ISTE. DVCAT. Standing facing figure of Christ, raising hand in blessing, holding book of Gospel. Surrounded by 10 Stars of 6 points, all within pointed oval.

FRANCESCO DONA
1545 - 1553 AD.

88. **Obv:** FRAN DON • S.M. VENET
Pl. VIII Similar to No. 87
Rev: Similar to No. 87
Christ surrounded by 12 Stars of 5 points.
89-91. Similar to No. 88
92. **Obv:** ERANC DO • S. M. VENET (N's reversed)
Pl. VIII Similar to No. 87
Rev: Similar to No. 87
Christ surrounded by 13 Stars.

FRANCESCO VENIER
1554 - 1556 AD.

93. **Obv:** FRAN. VENE • S. M. VENET.
Pl. VIII Similar to No. 87
Rev: Similar to No. 87
Christ surrounded by 12 Stars of 6 points.
94. **Obv:** Similar to No. 93
Pl. VIII
Rev: Similar to No. 93 — Stars have 5 points.

GEROLAMO PRIULI
1559 - 1567 AD.

95. **Obv:** HIE. PRIOL • S. M. VENET.
Pl. IX Similar to No. 87
Rev: Similar to No. 87
Christ surrounded by 12 Stars.
96-98. Similar to No. 95

87

99. **Obv:** Similar to No. 95
Pl. IX
Rev: SIT. T. XPE. DA. Q. TV. REGIS. ISTE. DVCAT.
Similar to No. 95

ALVISE I MOCENIGO
1570 - 1577 AD.

100. **Obv:** ALOY. MOCE • S. M. VENET.
Pl. IX Similar to No. 87
Rev: Similar to No. 87
Christ surrounded by 12 Stars.

101. **Obv:** Similar to No. 100
Pl. IX
Rev: Similar to No. 87
Christ surrounded by 13 Stars.

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Coins and Medals of the State of the Ionian Islands

by

P. S. Lambros

(Cont. from Vol. VI, No. 3, P. 58)

The constitution written in Constantinople was accepted by the Sultan and the Emperor of Russia. Then the president of the Senate of the state of the Ionian Islands announced officially with a proclamation dated December 26, 1800, the return of the ambassadors who were also entrusted by both emperors to put the constitution into effect. Then the ambassadors, in a parade and special procession, marched to the house of the Senate: the secretary of the embassy, Augustine Capodistria, brought the treaty and the constitution on a silver tray which he offered to the president of the state who was seated on a throne. After reading the constitution in the house of the Senate, the Russian and Turkish flags were lowered with full honors and the Ionian flag was raised, saluted by cannon. The people, overjoyed, enthusiastically cheered and gave prayers of thanksgiving. The small islands of the Ionian Sea, after many centuries of slavery, now united in a confederate state, were finally taking the place of an independent Greek entity in the family of European states. The Ionian state, with the blessings of the ecumenical patriarch of the Eastern Orthodox Church and greeted by all the Greeks, forecast the formation in a few years of a larger independent Greek state with which the seven Ionian Islands were to become united.

But the preservation of the sovereignty of Turkey and the constitution restoring privileges to the nobles with undue speed, froze the enthusiasm of the islanders. The peak of their dissatisfaction was expressed by uprisings and revolts in Corfu, Cephalonia, Zante and Cerigo, during which many frightening murders, revenges and great plunder took place. In an effort to restore order in Cephalonia, the president of the Ionian Senate, S. Theotakis, sent a batalion there under the command of Colonel Nicolas Pieri, which, after a stubborn skirmish on June 3, 1801, disbanded the rebel forces. On this occasion the Cephalonians struck the following medal.

3. OBV. *Cephalonia grateful for valor and bravery*: City wall with a tall tower, with open gates. Above the tower two clasped hands and cross.

Rev. First glorious act of the legal state's arms. The winged lion of Saint Mark standing to the right on a base with the

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date 1801. The book of the Gospel with the seven arrows is held in the raised left paw of the lion. In the field above the Gospel, a tablet with the date 1800, the year of the establishment of the Ionian state.

A gold medal struck from these dies was awarded to Colonel Pieri and silver medals to the other officers. In my collection I have a lead cast taken from the gold medal given to Pieri, which was sold only for its gold value and melted in 1849.

The clasped hands and the cross are the emblems of the monastic order of the Franciscans, established by Saint Francis of Assisi. According to a local tradition of Cephalonia, St. Francis, on his way to Syria and Egypt in 1219, passed the island and left an icon of the Holy Virgin there. A monastery was established later in Cephalonia, which is preserved to date (1884) on the southern part of the island to honor the saint, at a site now called "Sisia," which appears to be a corrupt form of assisi. From this old monastery, which had many monks and became well known for its early date of establishment, the emblem of the Franciscan order came to be the crest emblem of Cephalonia and as such was used until the beginning of the nineteenth century.

The senate of the state of the seven Ionian Islands, although struggling with so many problems, understood fully how valuable was the right to mint its own coins. Consequently, one of its first Resolutions made on September 5, 1801, was to establish a state mint.

This resolution of the Ionian senate was originally written in Italian and then translated into Greek. Both the original Italian text and its Greek translation were officially printed and published and also publicized by posters. The Italian text is freely translated below.

We, Spyridion Theotokis, princeps and president of the most excellent Senate of the Republic of the Seven Islands, commander of the sovereign Order of St. John of Jerusalem, proclaims:

In the free development of this recognized, independent and federal government to exercise all its rights, it has been necessary as an expression of its sovereignty among the other states for political, honorable and public interest reasons, to make a final decision concerning the establishment of a mint issuing its own coinage, with the crest of the Republic, the circulation of which is to become general in all the state and everywhere, as a public commodity and support of the public economic activity.

In any establishment of such nature all governments proceed from minor to major undertakings: thus states flourish, thus are they preserved and guaranteed from the attacks of political groups, thus are they ready to proceed from the provisions for occasional needs to those for general tranquillity and security.

The federal government of the Republic of the Seven Islands, devoted to her efforts to establish fundamental sources of revenue, has not overlooked the proposed arguments for the establishment of a mint for coins.

Those coins are now being minted somewhere in bronze and they will appear as quickly as possible in circulation here and in the other cities of the Republic. The public interest will not, however, neglect private interest. These coins have their real value, their metal is pure, and their evaluation corresponds to the number marked on each coin, which is one, five and ten gazzettes.

These coins will be accepted for the purchase of commodities, necessities and merchandise and as change for any silver or gold coin accordingly relative to its value. It will be illegal for anybody to lower their established value: they will be examined by some for their pure and identical structure: their acceptance is absolutely ordered by any merchant, customs official, moneychanger and vendor with the warning that a penalty of 25 tallers to be paid to the state treasury will be imposed against the offenders for the first time, and major penalties in case of repetition; the government hopes that all the good citizens will comply immediately and positively to her paternal provisions.

Issued in the Senate at Corfu, September 5, 1801.
From the State Printing Office.

(to be continued)

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